

## Subpart J—Manatee Protection Areas

SOURCE: 44 FR 60964, Oct. 22, 1979, unless otherwise noted.

### § 17.100 Purpose.

This subpart provides a means for establishing manatee protection areas without waters under the jurisdiction of the United States, including coastal waters adjacent to and inland waters within the several States, within which certain waterborne activities will be restricted or prohibited for the purpose of preventing the taking of manatees.

### § 17.101 Scope.

This subpart applies to the West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), also known as the Florida manatee and as the sea cow. The provisions of this subpart are in addition to, and not in lieu of, other regulations contained in this chapter I which may require a permit or prescribe additional restrictions on the importation, exportation, transportation, or taking of wildlife, and the regulations contained in title 33, CFR, which regulate the use of navigable waters.

### § 17.102 Definitions.

In addition to definitions contained in the Acts, part 10 of this subchapter, and § 17.3 of this part, and unless the context otherwise requires, in this subpart:

*Acts* means the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (87 Stat. 884, 16 U.S.C. 1531–1543) and the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (86 Stat. 1027, 16 U.S.C. 1361–1407);

*Authorized officer* means any commissioned, warrant, or petty officer of the U.S. Coast Guard, or any officer or agent designated by the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Commerce, or the Secretary of the Treasury, or any officer designated by the head of a Federal or State agency which has entered into an agreement with the Secretary of the Interior, Secretary of Commerce, Secretary of the Treasury, or Secretary of Transportation to enforce the Acts, or any Coast Guard personnel accompanying

and acting under the direction of a person included above in this definition;

*Manatee protection area* means a manatee refuge or a manatee sanctuary;

*Manatee refuge* means an area in which the Director has determined that certain waterborne activity would result in the taking of one or more manatees, or that certain waterborne activity must be restricted to prevent the taking of one or more manatees, including but not limited to a taking by harassment;

*Manatee sanctuary* means an area in which the Director has determined that any waterborne activity would result in a taking of one or more manatees, including but not limited to a taking by harassment;

*Waterborne activity* includes, but is not limited to, swimming, diving (including skin and scuba diving), snorkeling, water skiing, surfing, fishing, the use of water vehicles, and dredging and filling operations;

*Water vehicle* includes, but is not limited to, boats (whether powered by engine, wind, or other means), ships (whether powered by engine, wind, or other means), barges, surfboards, water skis, or any other device or mechanism the primary or an incidental purpose of which is locomotion on, across, or underneath the surface of the water.

### § 17.103 Establishment of protection areas.

The Director may, by regulation issued in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553 and 43 CFR part 14, establish manatee protection areas whenever there is substantial evidence showing such establishment is necessary to prevent the taking of one or more manatees. Any regulation establishing a manatee protection area shall state the following information:

(a) Whether the area is to be a manatee sanctuary or refuge.

(1) If the area is to be a manatee sanctuary, the regulation shall state that all waterborne activities are prohibited.

(2) If the area is to be a manatee refuge, the regulation shall state which, if any, waterborne activities are prohibited, and it shall state the applicable restrictions, if any, on permitted waterborne activities.